



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department for the Aging

Julie Christopher, Commissioner

[Click here to go to the Virginia Department for the Aging Home Page](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS AAA TUESDAY E-MAILING January 9, 2007

SUBJECT	VDA ID NUMBER
<u>VDA Hires Two New Staff</u> (Julie Christopher)	07-40
<u>Spring Workshop for AAA Congregate Site and Senior Center Staff</u> (Elaine Smith)	07-41
<u>National Family Caregiver Support Program and Respite</u> (Ellen Nau)	07-42

Note: The web addresses (links) in this document may change over time. The Department for the Aging does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors and Staff,
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Julie Christopher

DATE: January 9, 2007

SUBJECT: VDA Hires Two New Staff

I am pleased to announce that we have hired **Ms. Kathy Miller** to be the department's new Director of Long-Term Care. This is the position that was previously held by Janet Schaeffer. Ms. Miller is a clinical nurse specialist and is currently the Director of Home and Community Services with SeniorConnections: The Capital Area Agency on Aging. She will bring considerable knowledge and experience in the aging network to our operations here at VDA. She will start on Tuesday, January 16.

We also have on board **Ms. Brenda Friend Briggs, Esq.** as a grant-funded legal specialist who will be working with Janet Brown James, Esq., to assist in the implementation of the various activities proposed in the legal services enhancement grant (*Project 2025: Enhanced Access to Legal Assistance for Older Americans in Virginia*) which VDA has received from the U.S. Administration on Aging. This three-year grant will seek to develop low-cost mechanism for providing expanded legal assistance services to low-income older persons. Ms. Briggs is a licensed attorney with considerable experience in Virginia. She started on Monday, January 8.

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

AND: Nutrition Directors

FROM: Elaine S. Smith, MS, RD
Program Coordinator

DATE: January 9, 2007

SUBJECT: Spring Workshop for AAA Congregate Site and Senior Center Staff

Please mark your calendars for the annual spring training for nutrition site staff, contractors, and home delivered meal drivers, which will be held as in past years at the Piedmont Geriatric Hospital in Burkeville on Thursday, April 19, 2007 and Tuesday, May 8, 2007. If needed, a third date may be scheduled for June. The topic will be **Unwinding from Stress** and an AAA meeting will be held until about 4:00 p.m. More information will be forthcoming.

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ellen M. Nau

DATE: January 9, 2007

SUBJECT: National Family Caregiver Support Program and Respite

President Bush Signs Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 (HR 3248)

The new law authorizes \$289 million over five years for state grants to develop Lifespan Respite Programs to help families access quality, affordable respite care. Lifespan respite programs are defined in the Act "as coordinated systems of accessible, community-based respite care services for family caregivers of children and adults with special needs."

Virginia Caregiver Coalition

The next meeting of the Virginia Caregiver Coalition is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2007 at the Virginia Department for the Aging. All Area Agencies on Aging are invited to send a representative to the meeting that will be held from 9:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Drinks are provided. Participants are asked to bring a bag lunch.

Kinship Care

Information on Legal Relationships and Public Benefits for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren is now available from the Atlanta's Legal Aid Society's Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Project and the Georgia Senior Legal Hotline. The document refers to Georgia's services for kinship care families but may have a format that would be useful for AAA's to utilize in publishing information about

grandparent/caregiver legal rights. Please contact Ellen Nau at 804-662-9340 if you would like a copy of the document.

Caregiver Health

Information on caregiver mental and physical health issues is now available from the Family Caregiver Alliance. Family members serving as caregivers are at high risk for emotional, mental and physical health problems. To access the report online, go to the Family Caregiver Alliance website – www.caregiver.org and put caregiver health in the search engine. The Alliance's monograph on caregiver health should appear on your screen.

HHS Launches New Web Site Promoting Long-Term Care Planning

The website should prove to be a useful tool for individuals to find information they need in planning for long-term care needs. Designed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging (AoA), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), the website also supports the "Own Your Future" campaign – a joint federal-state initiative designed to increase consumer awareness about planning for long-term care. For more information, please visit www.longtermcare.gov

Report on Adult Day Services

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at HHS contracting with the Research Triangle Institute issued a July 2006 report *Adult Day Services, A Key Community Service for Older Adults*. The report was written with a three-fold purpose:

1. Inform policymakers about the current and future role of adult day services in health and long-term care systems in regard to regulatory policies;
2. Identify regulatory and operational issues of adult day services and,
3. Provide information to guide future studies of adult day services' regulatory and policy issues.

The main report can be accessed at:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltop/reports/2006/keyADS.htm> or
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltop/reports/2006/keyADS.pdf>